

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00651 010912Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 INR-05 CA-01 PM-03
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0651

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, US
SUBJECT: LIBYA/US

1. AT APRIL 30 DINNER FOR LATEST IN PARADE OF AFRICAN VISITORS (PRESIDENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE) FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY ISA AL BABA (NOW NUMBER TWO IN HIERARCHY) AGAIN SOUGHT ME OUT TO TALK ABOUT US/LIBYA RELATIONS. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS WE NOW REFUSING VISAS TO LIBYAN STUDENTS. THIS WAS DISAPPOINTING NEWS SINCE LIBYA PLANNING INCREASE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN ALL CATEGORIES IN US TO NEARLY 4,000 OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT BOEINGS. I AVOIDED DIRECT RESPONSE ON STUDENT QUESTION BUT PASSED ON GIST OF LIBYAN AIRLINE CHAIRMAN CUNIALI MEETING WITH DEPT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON (STATE 109646). DISCUSSION INTERRUPTED BY ARRIVAL OF GUEST BUT ISA AL BABA INVITED ME TO COME AROUND TO FONOFF WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS FOR "INFORMAL" TALKS ON PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. I SAID WE WERE ALWAYS READY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.

2. IF I ACCEPT INVITATION, I WOULD REITERATE OBJECTION TO SUPPORT OF TERRORISM (ARRIVAL YESTERDAY IN TRIPOLI OF
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GEORGE HABASH GOOD CURRENT EXAMPLE) IN LIGHT OF STATE 110042 AND ALSO REITERATE STAND ON BOEINGS AS SET FORTH IN STATE 109646. I AM RELUCTANT, HOWEVER, TO TAKE UP INVITATION UNTIL STUDENT QUESTION IS CLARIFIED. IN FACT, I WOULD LIKE INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THIS MATTER SINCE PRESSURE FROM VARIOUS LIBYAN QUARTERS IS INCREASING DAILY (AT SAME DINNER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MANAGED TO EXPRESS

A FEW WORDS OF CONCERN TO ME).

3. WE APPEAR TO HAVE TOUCHED VERY SENSITIVE SPOT AT LEAST
AMONG THOSE LIBYANS LIKE BULK OF FONOFF GROUP WHO WANT TO
MAINTAIN CULTURAL LINKS WITH US.
CARLE

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